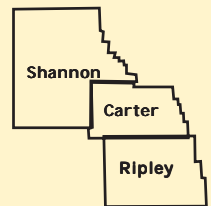




# Conservation Currents

Spring 2005



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

PROJECTS, ISSUES AND PROGRAMS IN SHANNON, CARTER AND RIPLEY COUNTIES

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ✓ TROUT FISHING CHANGES
- ✓ TURKEY RESTORATION
- ✓ OPERATION GAME THIEF
- ✓ REGIONAL QUAIL RECOVERY PLAN
- ✓ NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR BACKYARD
- ✓ FOREST MANAGEMENT AT PECK RANCH

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## Current Conversations

### Shannon Cave Public Involvement Coordinator

A Conservation Forum held in the high school gymnasium at Eminence brought over fifty citizens together with top-level Department leaders and staff December 9. Candid discussion was the order of day, and many topics - public use, roads, forestry, horse trails, and deer-dogging - to name only a few.

Discussions were led by Director John Hoskins. Other staff from Jefferson City included Deputy Director John Smith, State Forester Bob Krepps and Protection Division Administrator Dennis Steward. Staff from the Ozark Regional Office were also present.



This forum was the seventh of eight held statewide - in Columbia, Sikeston, Kirksville, Weldon Springs, Blue Springs, Maryville, and Springfield. At each, Department of Conservation leaders listened, answered questions and took notes. Concerns needing additional work were identified. A report is in preparation to assure that all concerns expressed get heard department-wide and that appropriate action follows. The report will include comments offered orally and via paper forms made available at the door.

Larry Rieken called the forum to order at 7:00 P.M. and welcomed participants. He reviewed two questions the department wanted to learn about in the course of the meeting:

- \* What kinds of public use facilities are most important to provide and maintain on conservation areas?
- \* Which resource issue do you feel is most important in the Ozark Region and what are your thoughts on how MDC is addressing the issue?

much input on other topics was received as well.

Rieken then turned the program over to Director John Hoskins who thanked the audience for its welcome. Hoskins recalled an earlier visit to the Eminence high school gymnasium - when he was a Van Buren basketball player some years ago. Hoskins recognized Representative J. C. Kuessner of the 152<sup>nd</sup> district, who spoke briefly. The forum was then opened for questions and comments from the citizens - at least 25 of whom spoke and 17 handed in written comments.

Participants were polite and candid, and most expressed appreciation that Department leaders had come and were listening. There were many compliments but criticisms and suggestions for improvements were common, too. Many issues involved differing viewpoints and illustrate

the sorts of dilemma public agencies face:

- \* Proponents of a season to hunt deer with dogs spoke - but opponents of that practice provided input, too.

- \* Forest harvest on Conservation lands drew both opposition and support. When asked about clearcuts vs old growth forest, Hoskins noted that forestry is about "managing the forest as a sustainable resource" and that "MDC limits their clearcut to small sizes, around 10 acres." Old growth forest "while nice to walk through, don't support some wildlife like younger stands of trees, we need both."

- \* Roads and trails were popular topics, with people wanting access to public land by car, horse, ATV and on foot - recommendations not always compatible with each other or other conservation priorities. Hoskins acknowledged the need for public access but also noted that "there are public land users who don't like having an ATV interrupt their outdoor experience, we as an agency have to balance the desires of both groups."

Both generated extensive comments, but

On one thing all seemed to agree: the Ozarks is a beautiful place prized by its residents, a home they care about. Its natural resources are at the root of the local economy and cultural heritage, and provide rich opportunities

for outdoor recreation. Careful listening and cooperation between citizens and the Department can keep and improve this legacy for future generations

## Fisheries

## MO's PLAN FOR BETTER TROUT FISHING

**Dave Mayers**  
Fisheries Management Biologist

Trout rank as the fourth most popular species of fish sought by Missouri anglers. Yet trout require special habitat and cool water temperatures year round, and those types of streams and lakes are very limited in Missouri. But the Conservation Department is committed to better quality trout fishing, which is why last fall a trout management plan approved by the Conservation Commission targeted ways to improve and expand trout fishing in Missouri. The plan includes goals and objectives that will focus Missouri's trout program on three priorities - "we want more trout anglers to have successful fishing trips, we want to spread the harvest of trout more equitably among all trout anglers, and we want to provide additional trout fishing opportunities for Missouri anglers."

The plan for Missouri trout fishing designates different parts of Missouri trout streams as blue-ribbon, red-ribbon or white-ribbon areas, based on each area's characteristics.

Blue-ribbon areas include parts of large, cold rivers with the state's best trout habitat, like the upper Current River, and smaller streams capable of supporting naturally reproducing rainbow trout populations, like Barren Fork Creek in northern Shannon County. The old Current River "Trophy Trout" water will be renamed a "Blue-Ribbon" water.

In these areas, the Conservation Department will restrict length and creel limits to allow the maximum number of brown or rainbow trout to grow to trophy size. Fishing in these areas will be limited to artificial lures and flies. This is intended to minimize the number of fish that die after being caught and released. Finally, the Department will prohibit gigging of non-game fish in blue-ribbon areas to prevent accidental harvest of trout. These regulations will not be new to the upper Current River as artificial lure and gigging restrictions have been in effect from Montauk to Cedargrove for several years.

In blue-ribbon waters, trout will have to measure 18 inches to be legal and the limit will be one daily. This is a change for the "Trophy Trout" portion of the Current River where the old size limit was 15" and the daily limit was three. Anglers should expect to see more big fish being caught in this blue-ribbon area in the next few years.

Additional places identified for blue-ribbon designation are portions of the Eleven Point and North Fork Rivers and Crane, Barren Fork, Blue Springs, Little Piney, Mill and Spring Creeks.

Red-ribbon areas also have high quality trout habitat. However, some factor, such as limited cover or seasonal temperature increases, limits trout growth or survival. In such areas, the Conservation Department will use slightly less restrictive harvest regulations. Stocked fish will be mostly brown trout with some rainbows. The idea is to provide catch-and-release fishing with a chance of catching large trout. Gigging of non-game fish will be allowed. Natural bait will be permitted in some of these areas. Red-ribbon areas include the Maramec River and Roubidoux Creek, where only artificial lures will be allowed, and parts of the North Fork River, where natural bait will be allowed. Anglers will be able to keep up to two trout that measure 15 inches or longer per day.

White-ribbon waters are cold-water streams capable of supporting trout populations year-round. The Current River from Cedargrove to Akers will be a white-ribbon area. These will be stocked mostly with rainbow trout under the new plan. The stocking will include some brown trout and a limited number of large trophy-sized trout not needed for brood stock at hatcheries. There will be no length limit on rainbow trout in white-ribbon streams and the daily limit will be four trout. This will appeal to anglers who want to take home what they catch. Any type of bait will be legal, and gigging of non-game fish will be allowed.

*"We want more trout anglers to have successful fishing trips"*



*"Blue-ribbon areas include parts of large, cold rivers with the state's best trout habitat, like the upper Current River."*

Beginning March 1, a new state-wide daily limit of four trout will take effect. Also on March 1, a new state-wide minimum length limit of 15 inches on brown trout caught from streams will take effect. This new 15-inch limit will affect brown trout caught in Montauk Trout Park and all other waters where a more restrictive regulation is not in effect.

Missouri's trout plan addresses other aspects besides trout fishing regulations. The plan also envisions changes at the Conservation Department's five cold-water trout hatcheries. These facilities already produce approximately 1.7 million trout annually but the agency hopes to increase this by 20 percent. Many of these hatcheries, including Montauk, are vulnerable to periodic flooding during

heavy rains. Modifications to Montauk's water intake system are planned. The Conservation Department is also looking into using new technologies, such as direct injection of oxygen, to boost productivity at all its cold-water hatcheries.

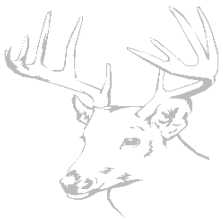
The plan includes measures to improve in-stream fish habitat and management of stream corridors. The Conservation Department wants to increase the stream mileage available to trout anglers. The agency currently manages about 145 miles of cold-water streams for year-round trout fishing. The plan sets a goal of adding 10 miles to this total in the next five years. This could be accomplished by buying stream frontage or by acquiring easements from willing landowners.

*"Beginning March 1, a new state-wide daily limit of four trout will take effect."*



## Wildlife

### OZARK TURKEY KEY FOR POPULATION RESTORATION



**Rhonda Rimer**  
Natural History Biologist

The wild turkey is one of the most secretive animals in the Missouri woods. In the past, turkeys roamed over the entire state in large numbers.

From 1840 until about 1900, historians recorded "Too many wild turkeys even to consider raising tame birds," and "Turkeys so numerous and easily obtained as to be scarcely worth of consideration."

Things changed for turkeys in Missouri by the 1940's. Wild turkeys would have qualified as a "rare and endangered species" at that time. The state's turkey population reached its lowest level in 1952 when fewer than 2,500 birds were present. Most of the surviving birds were found in the more remote areas of the Ozarks. There were several causes for this decline. The main ones were the destruction of forests and increased agriculture and grazing. These, along with year-round hunting, were foes the turkeys couldn't beat.

Various methods were attempted to stop the decline from 1925 to 1943, including release of captive-bred birds, but all were unsuccessful. In the early 1950's the Department of Conservation bought a large piece of land in Carter County where there were a few native wild turkeys. They named it Peck Ranch Wildlife Area. By 1952, the Conservation Department had 23,000 acres at Peck Ranch for the sole purpose of saving the wild turkey. Food

and cover restoration and protection paid off, and by 1954 the population had increased from 9 turkeys to 32 on this tract. By 1957, the 11,000 acre refuge area of the Ranch supported about 100 birds, and turkeys had also increased in the surrounding range.

Management practices on the Peck Ranch Area demonstrated that there was a way to "bring back" the wild turkey. To further boost turkey populations in Missouri, the Conservation Department began trapping birds in order to restore them to areas where they had disappeared. The restoration program began in 1954. By the spring of 1979 when the restoration program was terminated, turkeys had been moved to 142 areas in 87 counties. A total of 2611 turkeys have been trapped and released in Missouri.

Most releases were successful in re-establishing turkeys. Perhaps the best measure of the success of the program is the fact that all but 13 counties open to hunting in 1980 have huntable turkey populations directly as a result of restocking. None of these counties had any wild turkeys prior to restocking. Several are now among the top counties in the state in numbers of turkeys bagged during the open season.

Prospects for the continued increase and spread of wild turkeys in Missouri are good. We've learned what turkeys need in the way of food, cover and protection, and how to provide them. And with timber management, effective law enforcement, and strong support from sportsmen and landowners, conditions for turkeys continue to improve.

*"The state's turkey population reached its lowest level in 1952 when fewer than 2,500 birds were present."*



*"Management practices on the Peck Ranch Area demonstrated that there was a way to 'bring back' the wild turkey."*



## Protection

## OPERATION GAME THIEF MONIES BENEFIT LOCAL SCHOOLS



*"Working together we can protect our wildlife, provide some additional monies for our local schools."*

**Ryan J. Houf**  
Conservation Agent

The fall of 2004 kept many Conservation agents busy working to apprehend wildlife poachers who were involved in illegal nighttime activities. Many agents received spotlighting calls from landowners and informants who were willing to provide vital information necessary to apprehend individuals involved in taking wildlife illegally. Spotlighting is illegal and is defined by the Wildlife Code of Missouri. The Wildlife Code states, "no person shall throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light on any highway or roadway, whether public or private, or in any field, woodland or forest for the purpose of spotting, locating, or attempting to take or hunt any game animal, by any person acting either singly or as one of a group of persons." Spotlighting is a Class A Misdemeanor and if convicted a person can receive a maximum fine of \$1,000.00 plus court costs and/or one year in the county jail.

Over a two month period, approximately 35 spotlighting cases were conducted by Conservation Agents in Carter, Shannon and Ripley counties. Consequently, several thousand dollars in fines were assessed to the convicted poachers. All fine monies collected from wildlife violation convictions are deposited into the general school fund in the county where the violation occurred.

Operation Game Thief (OGT) is a program provided to Missouri citizens by the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri

Conservation Federation. This program provides a reliable coding method which allows citizens to call a toll-free telephone number and report a wildlife violation and collect a reward while remaining anonymous. Maximum rewards are issued for major violations, repeat offenders, and commercial poachers. Rewards are awarded once an arrest or citation is issued based on the information that was provided.

You can call 1-800-392-1111 or \*OGT on your cellular telephone or call your local Conservation Agent. Provide as much information as you can about the suspect, the vehicles or boats used, license plate(s) or registration numbers, the area where the poaching took place, or where the poached animal is being stored. Dates and times are also very important information to provide. By providing reliable and detailed information, the chances will increase of an arrest being made so you can receive your reward money but most importantly, the poacher(s) may be apprehended and wildlife protected.

Conservation Agents are ready and willing to assist Carter, Ripley, and Shannon county citizens in protecting our wildlife resources. Working together we can protect our wildlife, provide some additional monies for our local schools, and hopefully convince a few people that there are Missouri citizens willing to stand up and help in the protection of our precious wildlife resources.



## Private Lands

## REGION TO DEVELOP QUAIL RECOVERY PLAN

**Brad McKee**  
Private Land Conservationist



Area landowners may be interested to know the Missouri Department of Conservation is in the process of developing a regional quail recovery plan. Estimates indicate the fall population of bobwhite has fallen 65% from 1980 to 1999 statewide. The first step in this process was to identify focus areas that contain land types that have a "high" potential for quail restoration efforts.

The next step is where the fun begins, identifying limiting factors for quail in which area landowners are willing to implement on their lands. The identification process is fairly simple. We have all sorts of habitat score sheets, literature, and job sheets on proven ways to improve habitat for wildlife. The tough part is the human element. By this I mean to what level are area landowners willing to invest to implement these practices and also are they willing to dedicate a little acreage

scattered around the farm to see quail again? This is the part where I need to hear from area landowners. I would really appreciate hearing your ideas on quail habitat and how we can make a workable plan for the area. If you have an interest in preserving small game hunting for future generations and have areas you would like to improve, feel free to contact me here at the office at 417-778-7561 ext. 107.

### Recreational Mowing

This is a term commonly applied to landowners who have purchased small parcels just outside of urban areas (5 to 10 acres) on what used to be farm land until urban sprawl encroached and land prices made farming no longer feasible. The "recreational mowing" term refers to the continuous mowing of the entire acreage much like a golf course. This in effect creates continuous blocks of no habitat for wildlife or even other uses.

Another similar situation begins to occur in late summer and fall here on area farmlands. This seems to be a traditional time for farmers to catch up on cleaning up their fields by brush hogging. I'm not sure the reasons for this timing other than maybe it's a time when we can show were ahead of the vegetation for a longer period with winter just around the

corner or maybe it's just a matter of when we have time to do the task.

Do not take this article the wrong way since I'm as guilty as anyone at wanting my place to look well maintained. We all know we have to control brush and weeds to prevent overtaking grassland. But I'd like to throw out an alternative that will save time, fuel and machinery expenses, and allows wildlife cover to still be provided through most of the winter. What I'm talking about is prescribed fire. I see many of these fields mowed in the fall that would benefit much more from prescribed fire than mowing. Fire was used extensively by Native Americans and then by our generations preceding us. Prescribed fire controls woody vegetation, removes old dead plant material, releases nutrients to the soil, and best of all it is cheap and easy if proper planning is made.

Prescribed Burn Workshops are conducted periodically in various counties throughout the region each winter and spring. These courses cover basic knowledge to carry out a prescribed fire safely. No exact dates are set as of yet but feel free to contact me if you would be interested in attending.

*"recreational mowing" term refers to the continuous mowing of the entire acreage much like a golf course."*



*"...many of these fields mowed in the fall would benefit much more from prescribed fire than mowing."*

## Education

## NATIVE PLANTS: FRUGAL, EFFECTIVE, AND BEAUTIFUL



### Bridget Jackson Conservation Education Consultant

Spring is here and it's time to start the garden. Before purchasing your usual plants, consider using native plants for your landscaping needs. Native plants can provide many benefits for your garden.

Native plants are adapted for the environment in Missouri. Therefore, it takes less water and fertilizer for them to grow. An added bonus, if you plant a short native grass, such as little bluestem, you may not have to mow all summer. In addition, many native plants are perennial and look better with each successive year, so you won't have to worry about re-planting each year.

Native plants are also exceptional at attract-

ing wildlife to your yard. Many people are aware that colorful plants will attract butterflies and hummingbirds. However, there are many other types of wildlife that can be attracted to your yard using native plants. Quail are attracted to gray-head coneflower, partridge pea, rough blazing star, and buttonbush among others. Black-eyed Susan, prairie dock, stiff goldenrod, and deciduous holly are a few that attract songbirds. Lizards can be drawn to a rock garden with aromatic aster, Eastern blazing star, lanceleaf coreopsis, and prairie dropseed.

Native plants come in a variety of colors, types, and blooming periods. It is possible to have beautiful plants blooming in your yard practically all year long. Spring and early summer choices include: butterfly milkweed, Indian paintbrush, New Jersey tea, prairie larkspur, shooting star, pale purple coneflower, and yellow cornflower. Summer and fall flowers include: several aster species, rattlesnake master, tall blazing star, wild bergamot, sweet

*Continued on page 6*



*Partridge Pea*

*"It is possible to have beautiful plants blooming in your yard practically all year long."*

cornflower, compass plant, and showy goldenrod.

Native plants are a wonderful investment in time and money. They will provide years of worry free beauty to your yard. Landowners who are interested in using native plants can get additional information from their Private Land Conservationist. Teachers can gain assistance for their outdoor classrooms from their Conservation Education Consultant. Other information sources include: the MDC

publications *Butterfly Gardening and Conservation* and *Missouri Native Easyscapes*. The MDC website is also an excellent source of information. It can be accessed at [www.conservation.state.mo.us/programs/grownative](http://www.conservation.state.mo.us/programs/grownative).

Enjoy the sunshine, earth, and plants this year as you garden. Keep in mind that native plants can bring hours of worry free enjoyment and wonderful wildlife opportunities.

## Forestry

### FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON PECK RANCH CONSERVATION AREA



#### John Tuttle Resource Forester

Peck Ranch Conservation Area is located in the northwest corner of Carter County. The largest portion of Peck Ranch CA was purchased in 1945 by the Missouri Department of Conservation from George Peck. It is currently 23,048 acres of mostly forested land.

The past history of the current Peck Ranch CA forest began around 1900 when most all of the virgin pine forest was cut to provide lumber for a growing nation. This activity left few shortleaf pine trees on the southern portion of the Ranch where the land is mostly flat with rolling hills.

Around 1917 the Mid-Continent Iron Company was constructed near Fremont, Missouri. The small town that sprang up was called Midco. 180 cords of wood was required to fuel the furnaces that produced 100 tons of pig iron per day. To provide wood for the iron company most of the southern ½ of Peck Ranch was clearcut.

The Griffith Stave Company bought the remaining timber rights sometime after the end of prohibition from George Peck the previous owner. Most of the white oak trees that were big enough were cut to make whiskey barrels.

Open range livestock grazing included frequent use of fire to enhance the grass for livestock. Burning often occurred during the driest time of the year and often during times when trees were most susceptible to damage from fire. This burning did not prevent oaks from re-sprouting, but small pine seedlings simply did not have the resources to keep sprouting. These types of activities led to our present day scarlet oak, black oak and hickory

forest that is located on sites that previously supported shortleaf pine.

Currently, many acres of the forest at Peck Ranch consist of scarlet and black oak trees which are declining in health due to symptoms caused by the age of the tree. The southern portion of Peck Ranch is where most of the problems are due to the soils on which the forest stands are located. Where the old shortleaf pine forest once existed, hardpan soils are typically found which leads to very dry conditions during droughts and very wet conditions during periods of heavy rain fall. The droughts have proved to be very hard on the aging scarlet and black oak trees.

In 1999, salvaging of dead and dying trees began on Peck Ranch to help enhance the new forest that would literally sprout up. Many forest stands had high levels of tree mortality due to oak decline. In order to prevent the large scale die off of trees in the future, the decision was made to restore the pine-oak ecosystem that existed on the southern portion of Peck Ranch prior to European settlement of the area. Forest stands that are highly productive for oak will continue to be managed for mixed oak species.

Since 1999, approximately 6,000 acres of forest land has had a forest inventory carried out to determine the health of the forest stands. Several acres of land have had timber harvested on it due to large scale oak decline. Reforestation efforts are underway through natural regeneration from oak sprouts and through natural regeneration from shortleaf pine seed trees. Where the pine seedlings are not present, artificial regeneration through the planting of shortleaf pine trees will continue. In the spring of 2004, 118,989 short

*"Most of the white oak trees that were big enough were cut to make whiskey barrels."*



*"...the decision was made to restore the pine-oak...that existed prior to European settlement of the area."*



leaf pine seedlings were planted on 394 acres. In the spring of 2005, 205,000 shortleaf pine seedlings are scheduled to be planted on 682 acres.

Many wildlife species benefit from the areas where timber was harvested. Several shrubby species colonize the area and provide food and cover. Two such species are smooth and winged sumac, which both provide seeds for wildlife during winter months. In addition, many grasses and forbs thrive and benefit cottontail rabbit and bobwhite quail. The oak trees that were intentionally left during the timber harvest provide dens for squirrels, raccoons, and birds, and acorns for these wildlife in addition to turkey, deer, and rodents.

The future of the newly started forest will be brighter due to a longer living tree species on the site. Midco Pine Flats Restoration area is 2,233 acres located on the southern half of Peck Ranch. This area is where most of shortleaf pine-oak ecosystem restoration work is being carried out. Monitoring of all activities will be carried out by MDC's Resource Science Division to make sure that the

management activities stay on track. In the future shortleaf pine with mixed oak trees and lush grasses and wildflowers will once again exist in the Midco Pine Flats of Peck Ranch CA.

If anyone has any questions concerning the forest management activities on Peck Ranch CA please call the MDC office at 573-323-8515 or 573-323-4249



## JACKS FORK AND PLATE

### Lemon and Mushroom Trout

Rhonda L. Rimer

Natural History Biologist

4 Whole dressed trout  
(each about 1/2 lb.)

All-purpose flour

1/4 tsp Salt

1/3 cup Butter or margarine

2 tbsp Lemon juice

1/2 lb mushrooms (slice if large)

1/3 cup Whipping cream

2 tbsp Finely chopped parsley

Yields 6 Servings

In a wide frying pan, melt butter over medium-high heat; add mushrooms and saute, stirring frequently, until golden brown (about 5 min). Stir in parsley, remove pan from heat and lift mushrooms from pan with slotted spoon. Arrange evenly to cover bottom of a large warm serving platter; keep warm. Set pan aside. Wipe fish with damp cloth, inside cavities and outside. Coat fish with flour; shake off excess. Return pan to medium heat; add salt to remaining butter. Place in pan as many fish as will fit without crowding. Cook, turning once, until fish is lightly browned and flakes readily when prodded with a fork. For a 1-inch fish allow 10 minutes total - 5 minutes on each side. When fish is done, remove from pan and arrange on top of mushrooms; keep warm. Repeat process with remaining fish. After removing last fish, add lemon juice and cream to pan; bring to a boil, stirring and scraping to blend with pan drippings. Spoon immediately over fish and mushrooms and serve.



## Outdoor Calendar

### Hunting

Coyote

Squirrel

Turkey (Spring)

### Opens

5/10/04

5/21/05

4/18/05

### Closes

3/31/05

2/15/06

5/08/05

### Fishing

Black Bass (impoundments)

Black Bass

(streams, Current Jacks Fork  
and their tributaries)

Trout Management Areas

Trout Parks

Snagging Nongame Fish (streams)

### Opens

Open All Year

5/21/05

Open All Year

3/1/05

3/15/05

### Closes

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2/28/06

----

10/31/05

5/31/05

### Resident Hunting Permit Prices

Hunting and Fishing --- \$19

Small Game --- \$10

Fall Firearms Turkey ---\$13

Youth Deer and Turkey ---\$17

Archery Hunting ---\$19

Firearms Any Deer ---\$17

Firearms First Bonus Deer --- \$7

Firearms Second Bonus Deer --- \$7

Trapping --- \$10

### Resident Fishing Permit Prices

Hunting and Fishing --- \$19

Fishing --- \$12

Trout --- \$7





## MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

### Ozark Regional Office

P.O. Box 138  
551 Joe Jones Blvd.  
West Plains, MO 65775  
Phone: 417/256-7161  
Fax: 417/256-0429

### Central Office

P.O. Box 180  
2901 W. Truman Blvd.  
Jefferson City, MO  
65109  
Phone: 573/751-4115

We're on the Web!  
[WWW.CONSERVATION.STATE.MO.US](http://WWW.CONSERVATION.STATE.MO.US)

### MDC Mission

- ✓ To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state,
- ✓ To serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities,
- ✓ To provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources.

### Mission of This Newsletter

The mission of this newsletter is to share current information about conservations projects, issues, and programs and to develop working relationships with the citizens of Shannon, Carter, and Ripley Counties.

### Share Your Thoughts

If there are any subjects you would like to see in the *Conservation Currents* please contact Scott Stephens or have any questions pertaining to the Wildlife Code please contact the Conservation Agent assigned to your county. County assignments and phone numbers are listed below.

### Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson

Sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Dept. of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service Phone: 1-800-392-1111

## CONTACT OFFICES AND NAMES

If you have a question about any of the following topics, here are your contact professionals:

Shannon Co. Field Office  
573/226-3616



#### Forestry

Gary Gognat 573/226-3616  
Terry Thompson 573/226-3616  
Dennis Hutchison 573/226-3616

#### Private Land Management:

Lesly Holt 417/967-2028

#### Conservation Agents:

Brad Hadley 573/292-8540  
Scott Stephens 573/226-3089

#### Wildlife

Dan Drees 573/226-3616  
Rhonda Rimer 417/256-7161

#### Fisheries

Dave Mayers 417/256-7161

#### Conservation Education

Melanie Carden-Jensen 417/256-7161

#### Outdoor Skills

417/256-7161

Carter Co. Field Office  
573/323-8515



#### Forestry

John Tuttle 573/323-8515

#### Private Land Management:

Brad McKee 417/778-6610

#### Conservation Agents:

Ryan Houf 573/323-4727  
Mark Wilcoxon 573/323-8523

#### Wildlife

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Rhonda Rimer 417/256-7161

#### Fisheries

Dave Mayers 417/256-7161

#### Conservation Education

Bridget Jackson 573/290-5858

#### Outdoor Skills

417/256-7161

Ripley Co. Field Office  
573/996-2557



#### Forestry

Steve Paes 573/996-2557

#### Private Land Management:

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Darren Killian 573/996-5984  
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